

NELSON, ROBERT (1656 - 1715), non-juror, supporter of the S.P.C.K., and philanthropist

Name: Robert Nelson
Date of birth: 1656
Date of death: 1715
Parent: Delicia Nelson (née Roberts)
Parent: John Nelson
Gender: Male
Occupation: non-juror, supporter of the S.P.C.K., and philanthropist
Area of activity: Philanthropy; Politics, Government and Political Movements; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born in London 22 June 1656, son of John Nelson, a wealthy Turkey merchant, and his wife Delicia, daughter of [Lewis Roberts](#) the writer on commerce. Robert Nelson was, therefore half Welsh, and it was appropriate that one of his works, *A Companion for the Festivals and Fasts of the Church of England* (1704 - reprinted at least thirty-six times), should have been translated into Welsh in 1712 by [Thomas Williams](#) (1658 - 1726), rector of Denbigh, under the title *Cydymaith i Ddyddiau Gwylion ac Ymptydiau Eglwys Loegr*. Nelson's career is fully described by Leslie Stephen in the *D.N.B.* Though his wife was a Roman Catholic, he was a zealous Protestant, yet sufficiently High-Church to refuse the oath of loyalty to the Revolution Settlement. He was prominent in the religious society movement, in the S.P.C.K., the S.P.G. Dr. Bray's library scheme, and the charity-school movement. He wrote at least a dozen religious books and pamphlets, including a life of George Bull (bishop of S. Davids from 1705 till 1710). He died 16 January 1714/5 in the house of his cousin, the daughter of [Sir Gabriel Roberts](#), leaving large sums to various good causes.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Based chiefly on the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Robert Nelson](#)

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